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BULLETIN OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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School of Library Science, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn.

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St., Chicago. Executive offices—78 E. Washington St., Chicago.

CEVERAL hundred of the more than 1800 persons who attended the Detroit conference were new members. Only a few score may be expected to step in and take the places of these new members at the 1923 conference in Hot Springs; for there are fewer librarians in the whole state of Arkansas than in half a dozen cities that were within a few hours ride of Detroit. The chairman of the membership committee is a southern woman, Miss Ideson of Houston, and she may be counted upon to rally every possible library assistant and trustee, for attendance at the conference and for membership in the A. L. A.; but she must have every member's help if she is to make even a fair showing under adverse circumstances. Will not all of those who have joined for the first time in 1922 renew again for 1923-not for the sake of numbers, not primarily for what they will get out of it, but through a sense of duty to the profession? Will not librarians of large libraries make a special effort to persuade the members of their staffs and their trustees that they ought to continue-or to join if they are not already members?

*HAT the Story of mankind, by Hendrik Van Loon, was the most important book published in 1921, is the verdict of members of the Children's Librarians Section of the American Library Association. Out of two hundred and twelve ballots received by the chairman of that section, one hundred and sixty-three were for this book; and no other book received more than twenty-two votes. In accordance with this vote, the Children's Librarians Section at Detroit, awarded the John Newbery Medal to Mr. Van Loon. The medal was awarded and presumably will be awarded annually in the future, not by the American Library Association, but by the Children's Librarians Section of the A.L.A., thus representing the library specialists in this field. The medal is the gift of Frederic G. Melcher.

HE Papers and Proceedings of the Detroit Conference will probably reach members who have paid the \$4.00 membership dues in 1922 a few days after this November Bulletin. Other members may obtain copies at \$1.25. The price to non-members is \$2.00. The Proceedings for the conference of 1921 were cut down to 168 pages. This year the committee reports and nearly all papers (most of them abstracted) are included, with the result that the volume will have about 400 pages. There have been some important changes in arrangement this The proceedings of the general sessions come first; followed by addresses and papers presented at those sessions. proceedings come next; then the annual reports. After those the proceedings of sections and round table groups are arranged alphabetically, the papers being incorporated in the report, thus keeping a paper and its

discussion together. In the future it is planned to offer a definite amount of space to each group and to make the secretary of that group responsible for editing and abstracting the papers to be included. Many of the papers are highly technical in character and can be intelligently abstracted only by some one who is trained in that special field.

THE A.L.A. Handbook is in the printer's hands but will not be ready until some time in December. Copies will be sent to members who have paid the \$4.00 dues for 1922. The price is 75c per copy to others.

THE American Library Association has been represented by the President, secretary or assistant secretary at the following meetings during the last few months: A.L.A. regional conference at St. Joseph, Missouri (called by state library associations of Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska); Southeastern library meeting at Chattanooga; Illinois State Library Association, Chicago; Ohio State Library Association, Van Wert; Pennsylvania State Library Association, Altoona; Wisconsin State Library Association, Madison; American Legion Women's Auxiliary, New Orleans; American Prison Association, Detroit.

R USSIAN librarians have appealed for help to American librarians through the A.L.A. A letter from the American Relief Administration says this kind of appeal comes "from all classes of intellectuals in Russia. They are hungry . . . and we believe that economic conditions will not materially improve for them for a long time. . . . Various groups in this country have already sent relief to similar groups in Russia"; and the hope is expressed that the librarians of America will help the Russian librarians. It is suggested that every library staff collect from its own members and perhaps from the li-

brary trustees, a dollar, a half dollar, or a quarter each, for this cause. Checks should be made payable to Edward D. Tweedell, treasurer, and sent to A.L.A. Headquarters. The money will then be forwarded through the Hoover organization, the American Relief Administration.

THE time seems to be rapidly approaching when every week of the year will be devoted to some "movement" or propaganda. Children's Book Week probably gets more consideration from libraries than any of the other weeks, but all of these occasions offer opportunities to the librarian and trustee to bring his institution and its service to the attention of new groups.

▲ MERICAN Education Week which will be observed from December 3 to 9, 1922, is a ready made occasion for emphasizing the distinctly educational service of libraries. The separate slogans and topics for each of the seven days will make it possible for the library to write two or three short appropriate newspaper articles each day. Short lists of books printed in the newspapers or distributed in leaflet form will be in order. Special letters might well be sent to the ministers and others who are to speak on Sunday, December 3, asking them to mention in their talks the library as an agency for Americanization, citizenship and education. A reception to foreign-born groups might be held on Monday which is citizenship day. An exhibit of flags borrowed from individuals and organizations in the community would be appropriate on Tuesday which is patriotism day. Wednesday is school and teacher day, an appropriate occasion for sending communications to the teachers about the importance of training children to use libraries. The National Education Association, 1201 16th St., N. W., Washington, D. C., and the U. S. Bureau of Education are supplying printed

suggestions. The superintendent of schools and the officers of the local American Legion Chapter, may be assumed to be interested.

ATIONAL Thrift Week is scheduled for January 17 to 23. It will be noted that the celebration or observance of this week begins on the anniversary of Benjamin Franklin's birthday and it will be recalled by those who attended the Detroit meeting, that the association adopted the following resolution: "That this association joins in the effort of other organizations for a nation-wide recognition of the birthday of Benjamin Franklin, January 17 of each year, though no public holiday is desirable, and recommends that the two hundredth anniversary of the beginning of his career as a publisher be given special attention in 1923." For the special use of libraries during Thrift Week the A.L.A. is issuing about December 1 a new edition of its little reading list, Books and Thrift. The list is being printed this year without the name of the compiler, Ruth G. Nichols of the Chicago Federal Reserve Bank, because some banks objected last year

to the distribution of a list carrying the name of another bank. In this connection attention is called to the letter in this *Bulletin* from the president of the American Bankers' Association. It may be assumed that bankers will be especially willing to distribute copies of a list of books on thrift. The address of the National Thrift Committee is 347 Madison Ave., New York City.

ATIONAL Drama Week, sponsored by the Drama League of America, is scheduled for January 21-26 inclusive. Tuesday, January 23, is set aside as library day. Some of the slogans for the day are "Drama books in every library," "Read a play before you see it," "Special drama shelves in every library," "Talks on drama in the libraries and bookstores," "Drama bulletin boards in every library and book shop." Every librarian will think of ways of capitalizing this week for the library, and of making the library contribute to the cause of better plays. Write to Drama League of America, 59 E. Van Buren St., Chicago, for information and suggestions.

FACTS FOR TRUSTEES

AN enterprising life insurance man has been trying to sell to a library board group life insurance for the library staff. The library board in question is interested to know whether any other board has studied this question and reached a conclusion. The Secretary of the A.L.A. will be glad to receive communications on the subject.

In many libraries more than 50% of the annual income is paid out for salaries. For this reason and for many other reasons salary statistics are always interesting to trustees. The tables which are printed in this Bulletin were compiled by the Salaries Committee of the A.L.A. The Committee expects to furnish salary statistics for libraries of other sizes and kinds from time to time for publication in the Bulletin. Trustees inter-

ested in these reports are asked to communicate with the chairman of the Committee or with A.L.A. Headquarters if the facts they need are not available in the statistics printed.

R. GEORGE T. ETTINGER, dean of Muhlenberg College and trustee of the Allentown Free Library, speaking before the Pennsylvania State Library Association at Altoona in October said, in part:

"As long as communities spend for library purposes from twenty-one cents a year for each citizen, as does my native city of Allentown, to one dollar and four cents per capita, as does the community of Warren, or an average of thirty-nine cents per capita a year for each citizen in the twenty communities from which these figures have been received,